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EUGENE WEEKLY



Fleetwood Mac
tribute band
Taken by the Sky.
Photo by Eve Weston

From Brown Stallion to Hell's Belles, GayC/DC and Taken by the Sky, the PNW's tribute bands prove that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery

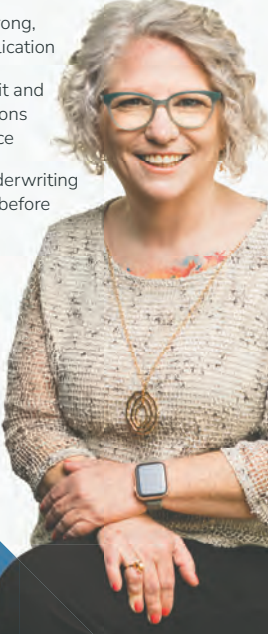
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who to blame

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OPINION

letters

DO BETTER – AND ELECT SOMEONE!

EW is Great!

“Do better, EW!” (George Keim in letters April 9.)

What a lazy comment from a local beer peddler who should heed his own advice.

John Brobst
Eugene

Tax Day Pennies

If I were to have put my pennies into a jar this past Tax Day, I would want them all to go towards protecting the natural world that supports life on Earth and to the moral world, which supports the common good. I would not put a penny towards war.

I put this to politicians: As John Lennon so beautifully wrote in his iconic song “Imagine”: “You may say I’m a dreamer, but I’m not the only one. I hope someday you’ll join us and the world will live as one.”

Benton Elliott
Eugene



Also, do physicians still take an oath to “first do no harm”? Maybe that also needs some looking at.

Nadine Powell
Eugene

Love thy Dogs

Doyle Srader (viewpoint, April 9) clearly is not a dog person. That gives him no standing to criticize those of us who are. If we were to follow his creed, only wealthy people or those who put dogs to work would be able to own a dog.

However, the most important quality of life for dogs is love. Just as it is for us humans. In fact, oxytocin levels increase simply from eye contact with the human they love. I’m sure human oxytocin increases too.

And, reality is no human should have to live in miserable living conditions, not just for the dogs. But our societal reality is that many of us can not afford vast estates where we can allow ourselves and our canine companions to run free.

I know that my canine companions would have died from heartbreak if I had given them away as if they were a possession. We all do our best to give them and ourselves a good life. But most important is the love we share with the non-human animals that we live with.

Angela Flynn
Eugene

PeaceHealth Questions

A big thank you to Shawn Boles for his excellent piece on what PeaceHealth is doing regarding Emergency Services at River Bend hospital April 9.

What I can’t understand is that the hospital is still using as their mission statement something along the lines of, “We carry out the mission of Jesus Christ by promoting personal and community health...”

I think a lot of us would appreciate it if they were a little more honest in that statement.

Library Levy? Yes Please.

There are so many reasons to vote yes for the Eugene library levy.

I will highlight one — the library’s focus on early literacy programs that help kids learn to read. As a longtime early childhood educator and school board member, I know firsthand the importance of providing resources to support the foundations of literacy early. It starts with infants, toddlers and preschoolers to build a love of books and vocabulary growth. Studies

13TH ANNUAL

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

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have shown that children entering schools who have had rich experiences, exposure to books and language have heard up to 32 million more words than children who have not. These differences are predictive of which children will be struggling readers by third grade. The library provides free access to books, storytelling and activities that enhance vocabulary and the love of reading in children. And parents get to observe how they can do this at home with their children.

The early literacy programming is even more effective with access in our branch

libraries as well as the main library, offering opportunities to visit on different days and times. The levy supports easier access by keeping all three branches open throughout the city and by maintaining digital access to books and resources.

Libraries help children enter kindergarten ready to learn to read and succeed in school. Join me in voting yes for the library levy in May!

Judy Newman
Eugene

Pedestrians Share Responsibility for Safety

A number of letters to the *EW* lately assert that many motorists care little or nothing about pedestrian safety. Can we also recognize that some pedestrians, especially near the University of Oregon, act as if they are oblivious to the vehicles around them? Several friends agree that pedestrians jaywalking across Hilyard and Patterson Streets near campus sometimes appear to deliberately walk into the path of oncoming traffic, as if to taunt motorists

with their power to make them slow down. Awareness and safety on the streets are everyone's responsibility.

Tim Baxter
Eugene

LETTERS POLICY:
We welcome letters on all topics and will print as many as space allows. Limit length to 250 words and include your address and phone number for our files. deadline: 9 am Monday. Email to Letters@EugeneWeekly.com.

Local & Vocal

Viewpoint by Hope Bohanec

A Justice Movement

Animal liberation is part of the social justice tapestry

Right now, someone in our community is being confined against her will, subjected to forced pregnancy, and enduring painful body mutilations without pain relief. When her baby is born, he will be taken from her. She will suffer psychological and physical anguish from her ordeal, and it will end not in freedom but in death, long before her natural lifespan.

She is not alone. There are millions like her in Oregon. This is not a distant injustice; it is normalized, institutionalized and hidden in plain sight in animal farming.

For some, veganism is seen simply as a dietary choice. But for many, it is a justice movement and a refusal to participate in a system of violence. At its core, veganism is an economic boycott of an unjust and unsustainable industry, but there are also broader implications that are ethical, philosophical and for some even spiritual.

Living as a vegan challenges the systematic exploitation of billions of sentient beings and calls for a more just and environmentally sustainable food system. Yet animal liberation is frequently pushed to the margins of social justice — if it is recognized as a legitimate movement at all. Why?

Part of the answer lies in speciesism, the belief that one species is inherently more valuable than others. Like racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia and other systems of structural oppression, speciesism is embedded in our culture and shapes assumptions we rarely ques-

tion. It creates the widespread exploitation and killing of animals on a staggering scale.

Once we acknowledge that animals are harmed through commodification, it becomes difficult to avoid the conclusion that veganism is inherently political. Animals matter morally, ethically and politically and animal liberation belongs within the broader social justice tapestry.

A shift toward a vegan ethic would dramatically reduce animal suffering, but it would also alleviate significant forms of human suffering. Industrial animal agriculture is connected to climate change, food insecurity, public health crises and corporate control of our food system. Our fate is intertwined with how we treat other beings.

Scientific research, along with common sense, clearly shows that non-human animals experience pain, anxiety, and trauma and that they are also deeply emotional and sentient. They grieve, they rejoice and they value their lives. Farmed animals endure profound psychological distress from standard industry practices such as confinement, deprivation, separation of family and friends and the denial of agency.

Recognizing speciesism can be uncomfortable because it challenges deeply ingrained norms. Even compassionate, progressive people can fall into the cultural trap of perceived human superiority and have speciesist tendencies and practices. Advocates for immigrant rights, racial justice, climate action and global human rights often recognize that their work is part of a broader struggle against

systems of domination. Even some animal advocates fail to recognize that these struggles are interconnected — animal liberation belongs within this shared framework.

Resistance to this idea often stems from what comes after recognition: responsibility. To recognize animal exploitation as a justice issue is to confront our own participation in it. Veganism asks that we examine every day what we eat, buy, wear and normalize.

These changes reach into our habits and social relationships, forcing us to confront uncomfortable truths about our behaviors and practices. At the same time, this is precisely what makes it so powerful, because individuals are inspired to create meaningful change through everyday actions.

Our food choices are not trivial, they shape industries, ecosystems and lives. Choosing animal-free products is one of the most immediate and impactful ways to reduce harm — to animals and our planet. It offers an opportunity to expand our circle of compassion and to challenge a long-standing paradigm of domination.

Veganism reveals speciesism as a system of oppression and invites us to imagine a different kind of world, one in which no being is exploited, confined or killed for profit simply because they belong to another species.

Plant-based is the global future of food, and it starts locally. The second annual Eugene VeganFest on Sunday, May 3, at the Lane Events Center offers a space to visualize that future in tangible ways. With local vendors offering the best vegan food in the area, animal rescues, eco-forward businesses and more, the event provides a glimpse of a more sustainable and compassionate future and an opportunity to help create a healthier and kinder community for all.

Hope Bohanec is the organizer of the Eugene VeganFest, 10 am to 3 pm, Sunday, May 3, at Lane Events Center, EugeneVeganFest.org, and the executive director of Compassionate Living. Find out more at Compassionate-living.org.



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BY EW EDITORIAL STAFF

>> **Watch out for traffic this weekend** — the best kind! It's the Eugene Marathon on April 26.

>> **Some calendar news!** We have officially completed the transition to our new online events calendar platform, CitySpark. Things look a little different, but it's still the same great, free calendar. Among other new features, you can now search and filter events by date and location. The best part? The website actually loads (which was too much to ask for from our last platform). In the transition, we lost some events and others got jumbled, so if you don't see something that's supposed to be there, please submit it again on CitySpark! If you have any questions or frustrations, email Cal@EugeneWeekly.com.

>> **We took our (little commie rag) show on the road last week** and gave a talk at Eugene-Delta Rotary Club. As always, we were impressed by all the civic-minded folks we meet at these shindigs! We're always open to come talk about what we do and why we do it, so feel free to hit up our publisher, Jody Rolnick, at Jody@EugeneWeekly.com.

>> On the civic note, **we've been hard at work interviewing folks for our May Primary Election endorsements.** Our endorsements issue comes out April 30 — right around the time your ballot is mailed! We had fun talking to everyone from the library levy folks to Gov. Tina Kotek. Pro-tip: If you are wondering about your ballot, Google the words My Vote Oregon and type in your name and birthdate. Sneaky pro-tip: If you know anyone's name and birthday you can type theirs in too — this is how we know University of Oregon Duck football coach Dan Lanning is a Republican.

>> **Letters, letters, letters!** We love all the letters coming in! We cannot fit all letters in print (anyone want to sponsor the letters section?) but if the letter is 250 words or fewer, and is accurate, we publish it. If we cannot fit it in print in a timely manner, we publish online. So this week check out all the letters from the North Eugene High School students and election-oriented letters at EugeneWeekly.com.

ACTIVIST ALERT

PROTESTS, ACTIVISM AND MORE AROUND LANE COUNTY

BY CAMILLA MORTENSEN

"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." — Shirley Chisholm, first Black woman elected to Congress

>> **Benefit for Latino Immigrants — Grupo Latino de Acción Directa**, 3 pm to 5:30 pm, April 26. Claim 52 Brewery 232 Lincoln, sug. Don. \$20, and \$1 from every pint sold benefits GLAD. GLADLaneCounty.org.

>> **Eugene May Day 2026, International Workers' Day Celebration**, noon to 5 pm, April 26, Eugene Park Blocks, 8th and Oak. Music, art, food, workshops, May Pole, games, speakers, EugeneMayDay.org.

>> **International Workers' Day**, noon, May 1, Wayne Morse Free Speech Plaza, 799 Oak Street. No school, no work, no shopping. Rally and march.

For ongoing events at the Eugene Federal Building, 7th Avenue and Pearl Street, and elsewhere, go to EugeneWeekly.com/tag/activist-alert this week!

NEWS

Cash Cow or Co-op?

In the face of possible sale to corporate investors, the senior residents of the Lakewood Vista 55+ manufactured home community are trying to buy it as a co-op

BY WILL DECKER



DEANN SWEEPER AND GENEVA MILLER

Photo by Eve Weston

On April 2, Geneva Miller, 85, received a letter from Commonwealth Real Estate, the property manager for Lakewood Vista, her 55+ mobile home community in northwest Eugene. Her heart sank when she opened it, saying, "My god."

The letter said that the park was to be put up for sale April 20, and per Oregon law, the company was obligated to inform them of the sale and their right to form a tenant co-op to buy the park. They had until the 20th to send a letter of intent.

With a sale looming, for-sale signs are cropping up in front of the neat, small houses with manicured yards and with shady trees over retirees' porches. Otters, geese and ducks find refuge in the small pond behind the newly remodeled community center. The park is currently owned by The Carlyle Group, one of the world's largest private real estate companies. Should it sell to new corporate owners, residents fear steadily rising rents, or worse, park closure and redevelopment.

This had happened before, in 2020. According to Deann Sweeper, 72, who was then on the tenant committee board, rents "skyrocketed." While previous tenants were grandfathered in, Sweeper says new tenants were paying "almost double."

"It's very stress inducing," she says. "That's why we're just gonna bite the bullet and go for the long shot and try to buy the park" via a co-op.

A co-op is a model for residents to own their community by owning shares of a nonprofit corporation that owns the property. These communities are managed by the residents through a democratic process for large decisions, and a volunteer board of directors, who handle day-to-day decisions.

Co-ops typically have more stable rents, as they only go toward operational expenses and not profit. They are also nearly immune to the threat of sale and have much longer leases, up to 50 years, according to Sweeper.

According to the Private Equity Stakeholder Project, three of the four largest private equity firms in the U.S. own large manufactured housing portfolios: Apollo Global Management, Blackstone and The Carlyle Group. Sweeper called parks a "cash cow" for investors. According to Resident Owned Communities U.S.A., co-ops are a stable option; as of 2024, none of the resident-owned communities in its network had reverted to private or corporate ownership.

Bethany Cartledge, executive director of St. Vincent De Paul, says she is a "big fan of co-ops and the resident-owned communities model." The nonprofit has been buying mobile home parks for the past 15 years to combat the frequent sales and rising rents that come with private ownership. Cartledge says that, since then, St. Vinnies has seen many out-of-area developers buying such parks and raising rents to a

point that residents were forced to move.

Oregon law caps annual rent increases for manufactured dwellings (mobile homes) at 6 percent as of 2025. According to Sweeper, Lakewood has raised rents year over year at 4 to 5 percent per year.

Most tenants at the park are on fixed income and even this increase has been untenable. Miller says her rent started at around \$500 a month when she first moved in six years ago. Now it is over \$800. "My Social Security for this year went up \$40, and my rent went up \$44," she says. "So right there I lost money." She relies on Social Security and SNAP benefits to get by and lives with a housemate to help her afford rent. Her SNAP benefits were reduced recently due to federal cuts.

After receiving the notice of sale, Sweeper got in contact with nonprofit Community and Shelter Assistance of Oregon, which assists tenants with the formation and organization of co-ops and acts as their real estate agent for the sale.

On April 7, over 80 Lakewood Vista tenants gathered in the community center to vote on forming a tenant co-op to try to buy the park. The vote was almost unanimous, with all but one voting in favor of the co-op. Sweeper was again appointed to the five-person tenant committee board.

Now that the letter of intent has been sent, Commonwealth must share and discuss the financials with Casa of Oregon so the residents can make their offer. The selling price six years ago was \$20 million.

"It would have to all be loans," Sweeper says. "Unless we find an angel that wants to give us \$20 million. We have a couple of people working on that."

Under Oregon law, the tenants do not have the "right of first refusal," so they would still have to compete with third parties to buy the park. The law does, however, mandate that their offer be considered "in good faith," says Bill Miner, the lawyer representing Commonwealth.

"The advantage that the tenants have is that once they receive the financial information, they then have a statutory right of 45 days to come up with an offer," Miner says. "Which is a long time in the world of commercial real estate."

While optimistic, Sweeper is worried about what may happen should it go to another private owner. "It's very scary," she says. "I won't be able to afford my place, certainly not in 10 years, probably not in five."

Miller is on the waiting list for two other retirement communities in Eugene with wait times ranging from nine months to two years. Even then, she would have to sell her home at Lakewood, which she also tried to do last year. "It was on the market for four months, and I was paying both rents," she says. "I couldn't afford that for very long, so I gave up and moved back."

Running for Honor and Change

Erick Munene Njue, who was killed in a traffic accident Jan. 25, was registered for the Eugene Half Marathon. His friends are running in his name. **BY SAVANNAH BROWN**

On Jan. 25, 30-year-old University of Oregon Ph.D. student Erick Munene Njue was killed in a traffic accident near the intersection of 22nd Avenue and Patterson Street, close to the Spencer View apartments, where he lived. He was riding his bicycle down Patterson, a two-lane, one-way street. As he crossed the road, one vehicle stopped to let him pass, while the car in the other lane was speeding and struck him. He was registered to participate in the Eugene Half Marathon, Sunday, April 26. His friend, Cleven Mmari and Mmari's 23-year-old son, Nehemia Mmari, will run in his name to advocate for safer roads in Eugene.

"He projected a simple genuine joy," Cleven Mmari says. Mmari says that when he asked Njue if he was registered for this year's event, Njue smiled and said "Yes! Of course I'll be there!"

Mmari says he promised Njue that he would show up to cheer him on from the sidelines, adding that Njue was very athletic. "He ran, he cycled, he danced," Mmari says. "He embodied a lifestyle that was just incredible."

Njue was in his last

term of his doctoral program at UO, set to complete his doctorate in special education and graduate in June. "He was really excited," Mmari says. "He was getting ready to go back to Kenya, where he was from, to work on the education policy for special education."

Mmari met Njue when he arrived at UO. Mmari, who is from Tanzania, was a Swahili teacher at the UO at the time, and Njue was brought on as an assistant. "If you meet him, you will immediately know him," Mmari says. "He has helped a lot of people, a lot of students who have come here to study. He's encouraged them to apply for further education and other things."

Njue was also an active member of the African Association of Eugene and Lane County, which Mmari says seeks to "foster and create an environment where African families can find home connections." Mmari says that Njue was "instrumental" to the association.

After he passed, a GoFundMe raised \$74,000 to bring Njue's body back to Kenya and provide financial support and legal litigation for his family.

Mmari later reached out to the Eugene Marathon and asked if he and his son could run in Njue's place. He says he did this for two reasons.

The first is to honor "the memory of his wonderful joy he brought to the earth and everybody," and the second is "to continue to push the message to drivers and the city and state, to really continue to ensure that the roads are safer for cyclists and pedestrians."

He continues, "We're going to run for life, to run to encourage the cities of Eugene and Springfield, to continue to ensure the roads are safer for cyclists, pedestrians and drivers, especially areas where there is a concentration of people, schools [and] student housing."

Mmari says that along with drivers doing their part to slow to the speed limit and be mindful of their own surroundings, the city must also take both long term and immediate action.

"We have not decided which traffic safety measure will be appropriate for that area, nor has any funding option been identified," says Marion Sutor Barnes, Eugene Public Works public affairs manager, though "we continue to explore options," she adds.

Mmari and Nehemia, along with friends and supporters stationed along the race, will sport shirts and banners in advocacy. "It was real unfortunate to have lost him, especially for something that we think could have been prevented," Mmari says.

Njue was a scholar of the International Cultural Service Program, which allows international students to attend UO on a tuition remission in exchange for up to 80 hours of educating the community about their home. Mmari, who was also an ICSP scholar, says that Njue loved to teach about the music of Kenya for the program. At the end of the race, Mmari says that attendees are invited to "dance to some of his songs that he really loved," including "Mugithi wa Matuini" which has lyrics that translate to, "have you bought your ticket to board the heaven-bound train?"

The Eugene Marathon and Half Marathon are 7 am Sunday, April 26, and finish at Hayward Field. The Eugene Marathon, Half Marathon and Eugene 5K are all sold out and the waitlist is closed. Go to EugeneMarathon.com for event details.



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SCAN FOR TICKETS

Bricks \$ Mortar

Relic of Steelhead Brewery to be Sold

Former brewery's west Eugene brew facility to be turned into an electrical contractor's shop

BY SEIRA KITAGAWA

Eugene's local beer brewing scene was sparked by Cordy Jensen 35 years ago, when he opened the Steelhead Brewery in the Fifth Street Market district. At the time, it ranked locally as a sensational innovation.

Fast forward to 2024, Jensen closed the Steelhead and retired. But a little-known relic of the Steelhead operation remained in existence: Its large brewery building in west Eugene, where Jensen made the company's beer.

But that remnant won't be around much longer.

The 88-year-old industrial building is slated to be sold to a Eugene electrical contractor, which has plans to clear out all the beer brewing equipment and turn the place into its new headquarters, city records show.

The beer production building's fate reflects the tricky times the craft brew industry faces amid a glut of brewpubs and craft beers.

The 1865 West 6th Avenue property, a 23,000-square-foot building on 1.5 acres, still contains idled brewing equipment, including 19 indoor brewing vats and an eye-catching outdoor two-story-tall grain silo. All are slated to be torn out under the remodel envisioned by Oregon Electric Service and Automation, city records show. The electrical company is currently headquartered elsewhere in west Eugene. The company met last month with city planning staff to review the anticipated work.

After Jensen closed the Steelhead pub in the market district, he continued to use the west Eugene brewery facility to produce some beer, records show. But that tapered off and the facility stood unused. Jensen, who has owned the west Eugene property for decades, put it up for sale with the C.W. Walker brokerage, asking

price \$1.6 million. The brokerage now lists a sale as pending.

NUMEROUS CLOSURES

The Steelhead's demise is still lamented.

"It is sad," Katy Lenn, a Eugene resident, says of Steelhead, coupled with the shuttering of some other local beer pubs, including Hop Valley's Eugene pub and the Elk Horn Brewery on East Broadway. Lenn and her husband used to go to a brew pub in Eugene about three times a week after work. "It is a great way to socialize," Lenn says. These days, however, she prefers wine to beer.

She's not alone in her drift away from beer.

On a recent day, San Diego resident Peter Milligan enjoyed a beer with his lunch at Silver Falls Brewery next to the Fifth Street Public Market. Milligan's daughter was in town for a rowing competition. Milligan says younger adults drink little beer in comparison to his generation.

"Everyone eats, but not everyone drinks beer," he says, looking across the street at Kennedy's Steakhouse that took the spot once occupied by the Steelhead.

"Beer is high in calories and does not have a high alcohol percentage, so you don't get drunk much," says Cing Dim, a student at the University of Oregon. She prefers liquor or wine, with their higher alcohol content.

The Brewers Association, a trade group that promotes craft beers, says the number of craft breweries has soared nationwide, from fewer than 2,000

in 2010, to nearly 10,000 in 2024.

That's created a lot of churn in the industry, with breweries closing even as new ones open.

Many Oregon residents do still like their beer. Oregon's per capita consumption of beer in 2024 was 11th in the nation, says the Brewers Association.

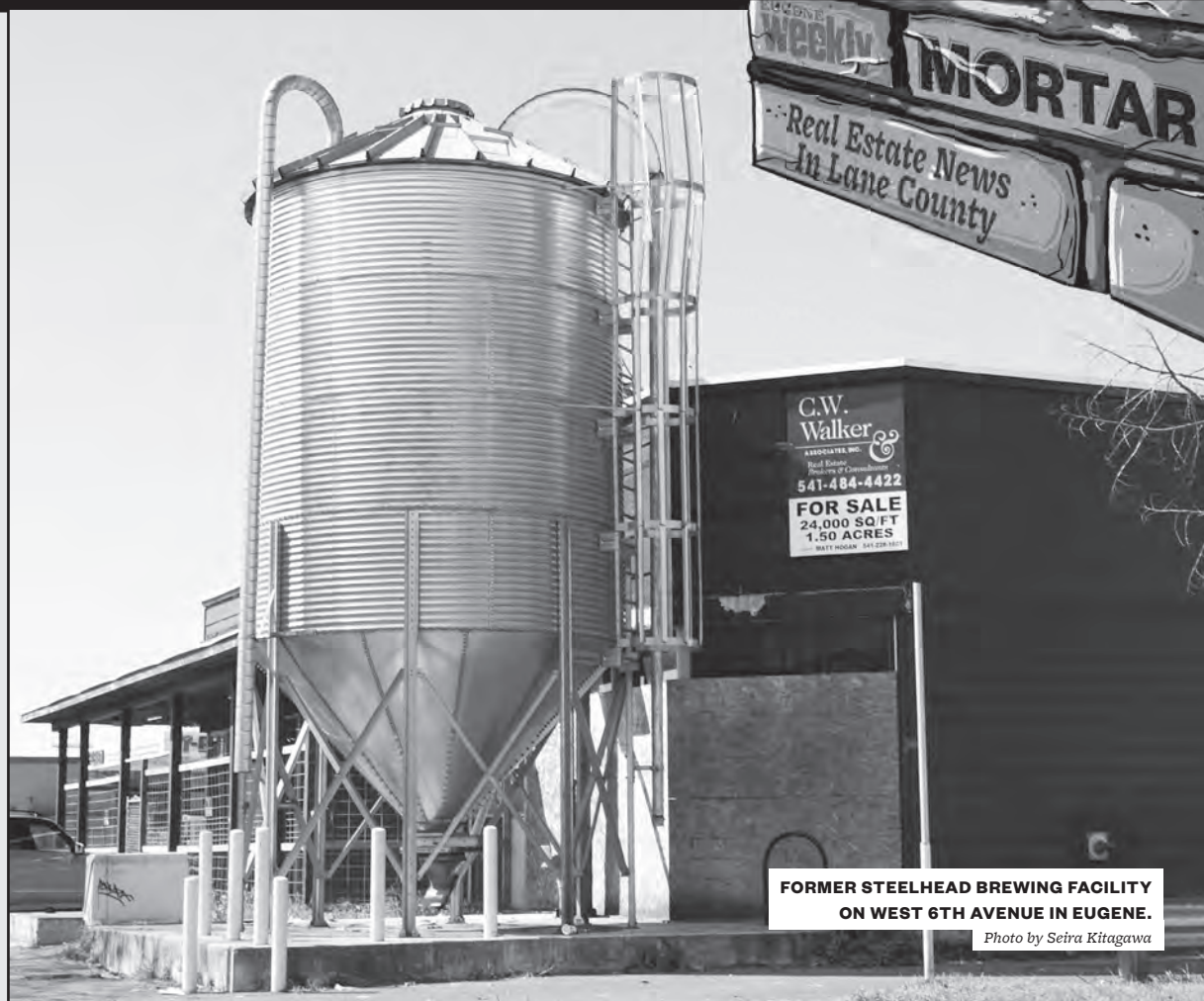
Brewpub and brewery closures have become commonplace in Oregon. Over 35 Oregon breweries, cideries and taprooms closed in 2024, says New School Beer + Cider, a website that tracks the industry. That's created real estate turbulence. The shuttered Elk Horn Brewery building stood vacant for a year before the Diamond Parking company bought it in late 2025. The building is still empty, and Diamond rents out the parking spaces.

Sitting at the Market Alley in the Fifth Street Public Market, Eugene resident Benedict McWhirter sips a beer brewed by Eugene's McKenzie River Brewing and ruminates that local brewers must focus on quality in order to stay afloat.

"The range of beer that you find in the Pacific Northwest is unmatched," he says.

Jensen and the owners of Oregon Electric Service and Automation did not respond to *Eugene Weekly's* request for comment.

Bricks \$ Mortar is a column anchored by Christian Wihtol, who worked as an editor and writer at The Register-Guard in Eugene 1990-2018, much of the time focused on real estate, economic development and business. Reach him at Christian@EugeneWeekly.com. Seira Kitagawa is a reporter with the Catalyst Journalism Project — find out more at CatalystJournalism.uoregon.edu.



FORMER STEELHEAD BREWING FACILITY
ON WEST 6TH AVENUE IN EUGENE.

Photo by Seira Kitagawa

EUGENE
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THE SONG REMAINS THE SAME

*Spotlighting the vast world of
Pacific Northwest tribute bands*

BY SAVANNAH BROWN



TAKEN BY THE SKY,
FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE.
Photo by Eve Weston

You're sitting in an intimate concert venue, buzzing with anticipation for the show to start. The lights go down. The crowd silences. And then, the moment you've been waiting for. The familiar and all-too-powerful opening chords of Fleetwood Mac's "Rhiannon" fill the room, with guitarist Lindsey Buckingham plucking the strong and twinkling chords. As the music swells, a spotlight shines on the majestic Stevie Nicks, who whirls and twirls across the stage, her raspy voice singing about the titular Welsh witch whom you'd "just love to love."

Enthusiasm abounds, and suddenly you and the rest of the audience are cheering and singing along to Fleetwood Mac, watching them live and witnessing their youthful prime at the height of all of their powers. Even if you know only the hits, you can't deny the unrelenting omnipotence of this musical institution.

Except, it's not Stevie Nicks and it's not Fleetwood Mac — they disbanded in 2022 after keyboardist Christine McVie's death. Instead, it's Jessa Campbell singing lead for the Fleetwood Mac tribute band Taken by the Sky at Olsen Run Comedy Club and Lounge on April 9 — and you only paid \$35 to go.

The price is low and the band is different, but the concert experience, to the best of Taken's ability, is the same.

Tribute bands are not to be confused with cover bands. While cover bands are simply bands who cover the repertoire of another artist, being in a tribute band typically means that performers are adopting the physical and musical mannerisms of the musicians they are portraying. Campbell says that this type of performance bodes well with her theater background.

"We're not trying to just recreate the songs the same way that you heard them on the record," says Taken's bass player, Brian Link, who plays Mac's "John McVie" on stage. "Our approach has been that we want you to see Fleetwood Mac live on a good day in their prime."

That approach clearly works for them. Taken by the Sky played two sold-out shows that night, and Link notes that several people stuck around for both. "My favorite thing in the world is when we do meet and greet after we play a show, and people will come up and list five or six different venues that they've seen us at," he says.

This type of following is indicative of where the music scene is, and how tribute bands fit within it. Though tribute bands are no stranger to their fair share of criticism, a select few have risen to the top and garnered dedicated fanbases.

The Australian Pink Floyd Show, for instance, is one of the biggest tribute bands in the world, having sold 5

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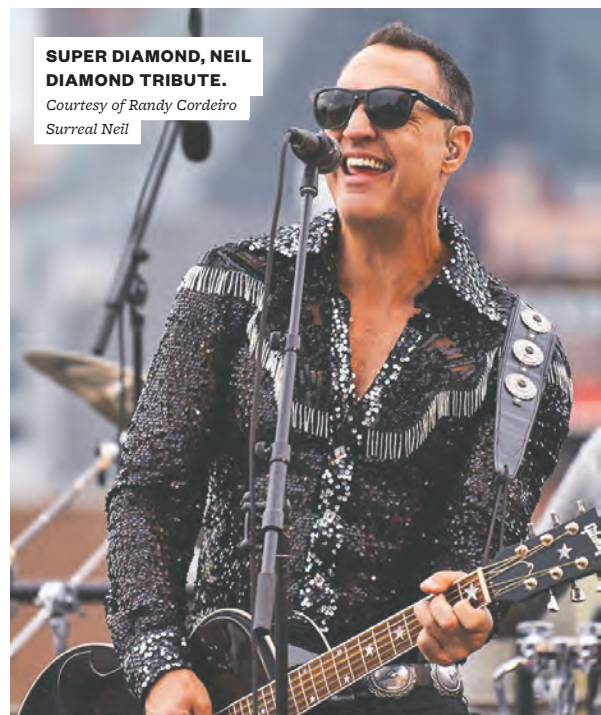
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million tickets and toured across 35 countries in their almost 40 years together. In 2025, they performed at London's Royal Albert Hall just months before original Pink Floyd frontman David Gilmour took the same prestigious stage.

On a smaller but still significant scale, the musicians of Eugene's own Ween tribute, Brown Stallion — who consider themselves more as “A tribute to Ween” than a tribute band — have found their own special place in the region — and more specifically Eugween, a community of local Ween lovers.

“We started playing shows every now and then,” Brown Stallion frontman Adam Corkery says, and Eugween “would just show up and get down with us and sing along to the songs. They just brought everything to that next level.” It was because of the community, Corkery says, that when Brown Stallion played the Cuthbert Amphitheater in a 2024 pinch when Ween itself canceled a scheduled concert due to Dean Ween's mental health concerns, the show was a success.

“I had tickets to take my son to his first Ween concert,” Corkery says. “There are not words that can explain how special that night was and how the Eugween community and the homies from afar came out and showed up. It was almost 2,000 people.”

Tribute acts have been around since the mid-1950s, when Elvis Presley impersonators popped up around the country to pay the sincerest form of flattery to The King. In the 1960s, the tribute band was born when acts such as The Buggs learned all of The Beatles' musical techniques and fashion tendencies, with each musician in these

groups taking on the role of a specific Fab Four member.

Back then, tribute acts were few and far between, mostly only to be found in dimly lit bars and nightclubs.

Now, “The market's oversaturated,” says Jason Fellman, a Pacific Northwest concert promoter for more than 200 tribute bands (and the drummer for Journey tribute band, Stone in Love). According to ProTributeBands, a service that connects tribute bands with buyers and gigs, there were an estimated 15,000 tribute bands touring the U.S. in 2024.

Fellman says that the demand for tribute bands these days comes from a lot of places. One of them is that “The real bands are either retiring or so many members have been replaced.” Touring bands like AC/DC and Iron Maiden may only have one original band member remaining, which makes them, as described by Fellman, “essentially a tribute band.”

He adds that “You're gonna see the real band once every two years, if you're lucky, even if they exist,” whereas one can see a single tribute band quite a bit because “the price point is so different.” Tribute bands also often hang around right after the shows to get pictures with fans.

That being said, Fellman says that he doesn't position his bands against the real thing “in any capacity,” calling the comparison “apples and oranges.”

Yet, in order to be in a successful tribute band, musicians still must be experts in who they are portraying, which requires a lot of research. Randy Cordeiro, otherwise known as Surreal Neil, has been the frontman of Super Diamond since it was founded in the early 1990s. It is one of the most popular Neil Diamond tribute bands in the world. Along with mastering Diamond's seductive voice, Cordeiro says over the years he has spent more than \$60,000 on sequined shirts to emulate the stage costumes the crooner was often associated with.

However, when he started out as Surreal Neil, Cordeiro says his first shirt was white and ruffled. A seeming misstep that Cordeiro retrospectively justifies because he has since seen “photos of Neil wearing a white, ruffy shirt like that because he took fencing in college.”

Mastering the musical skill and technique of a tribute band's real-life counterpart is essential for an audience to be receptive to it at all. This is especially true when it comes to bands whose tribute comes with a twist. Hell's Belles is an all-female AC/DC tribute band with a large following, who are also a Eugene favorite.

As an all-female group paying tribute to a band with

a very devoted and mostly male fanbase, accuracy was imperative to the Belles' early survival — especially in a time when tribute bands were still a novel concept. Adrian Conner, the lady Angus Young, says that when she first joined the band in the early 2000s, perfection was law, and the frontwoman at the time ruled with an iron fist. “Show up and kick ass and don't waste my time, and don't waste anybody else's time,” Conner describes.

Though the Belles are now established enough that they no longer have to worry about that kind of scrutiny, Conner says that playing AC/DC to a T is still always the priority. They make sure their show is “the best it can be, and that we're taking care of our bodies, warming up our voices and practicing and delivering it without flaw.”

GayC/DC is another tribute band that deals with something very similar. They, too, are an AC/DC tribute band, but they perform with the concept of “What if they were all gay from the start?” says bass player Chris Freeman, who is also a co-founder of '90s queer punk band Pansy Division. GayC/DC's show is very homoerotic, with props such as dildos, giant inflatable penises and boatloads of glitter. They wear thongs and fishnets, and Angus Young's schoolboy costume is now a big, bodybuilding schoolgirl. They take creative liberties with lyrics, such as “Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap,” pretty easily becoming “Dirty Dudes Done Dirt Cheap.”

With all that in mind, Freeman says, “If we're an all-gay band, what's the first thing they're gonna say? ‘You can't play.’ We want to knock that out. They got to know that we're set on this. So we spent a lot of time getting the music right.” For GayC/DC, their gimmick is only successful if the music is phenomenal.

The large scale of skill and professionalism translates to many of the biggest tribute bands. Most members of all tribute bands write their own music, and are also in multiple tribute bands (Taken by the Sky's Campbell, for instance, is in an ABBA tribute, Band After Midnight, and

a Talking Heads cover band, Life During Wartime). Todd Jensen, Journey's current bass player, got his start with a very popular PNW tribute band, Petty Fever.

When Fellman promotes his concerts, he says that one of the biggest reasons tribute bands are so important (and profitable) these days is because of the community.

“Community is a buzzword

that gets used and all that, but this is the literal definition. It is literally a community of people around the shared interest of nostalgic rock.”

Fellman runs five tribute music festivals throughout the year, with HareFest in Canby, Oregon, the most popular. In 2025, Harefest sold upwards of 10,000 tickets. “Before you know it, it became just as much about seeing your tribute band community at these shows,” as it was to see the bands.

There is also a community within tribute bands themselves. For instance, Brown Stallion are very close friends with other PNW Ween tributes, Poopship and Weener.

So, before you turn your nose up at a tribute band the next time one comes through Eugene, consider that you may experience the live concert experience of a band in its prime for a third or less of the standard concert price, at an intimate venue performed by skilled musicians who have brought together a community of people who really love music.

Band After Midnight, an ABBA tribute, performs 6 pm and 8:30 pm Thursday, April 23, at Olsen Run Comedy Club and Lounge. The concert is 21-plus. Tickets are \$39 and are available at OlsenRun.com. Life During Wartime, a tribute to Talking Heads, performs 8 pm Friday, May 1, at WOW Hall. Tickets are \$22 and are available at WOWHall.org. Brown Stallion, a tribute to Ween, performs 8 pm Saturday, May 30, at Blairally. Tickets are \$15. More information at Blairally.com. Harefest is in Canby, Oregon, July 16 through 18. For more information on HareFest and other Oregon tribute festivals, visit HareFest.com.

April 23

THURSDAY

Art/Craft

Paint & Sip, 2-4pm & 6-8pm today, Thurs. Apr. 30, 2-4pm & 6:30-8:30pm Fri., Sat., 2-4pm Sun., Wed., Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$35

Wine & Pine, 5-8pm, Downtown Athletic Club, 999 Willamette. \$75

Paint w/ Cats, 5:30pm, Eugene Spfd. Cat Lounge, 537 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. \$35

Civics

Budget Committee Mtg., 5:30pm today, Thurs., Apr. 30, Upper Willamette SWCD, 3291 W. 1st Ave.

LCOG Board Mtg., 6-8pm, Park Place Bldg., Buford Room, 859 Willamette, ste. 500 or visit lcoog-or.gov for link.

Comedy

Comic, Interrupted, 8pm, The Hybrid, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$15

Slay Hazel, 8pm today, Thurs., Apr. 30, The Starlight Lounge, 830 Olive St.

Food/Drink

Earth Day, 11:30am-10pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave.

Gatherings

Grief Group, 5-6:30pm today, Thurs., Apr. 30, S. Lane Mental Health, 1345 Birch Ave., Cottage Grove.

Listening Across Differences, 6-8pm, Bethesda Lutheran Church, 4445 Royal Ave.

Suicide Prevention Meditation, 6:30pm today, Thurs., Apr. 30, Jesco Club, 340 Blair Blvd.

Kids/Family

Family Storytime, 10:15am today, Thurs., Apr. 30, Bethel Branch Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

Sensory Storytime Trivia, 4:30pm today, Thurs., Apr. 30, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

APRIL 25

It's time to rock and roll with the **Emerald City Roller Derby's double header**. Watch matches from both The Wizards of

Quad (Emerald City's adult team) and the Junior Skaters going-head-to-head against teams from Beaverton and Everett, Washington in this full contact roller skating sport. Wizards of Quad athlete and co-committee head of the outreach team, who goes by the name Gnarly Rose (all derby skaters have a derby name), describes the sport as blending "speed, strategy, and physicality in a way that feels part race, part chess match and part collision sport," she says. "All parts controlled chaos." A game, or a "jam," consists of four blockers and one jammer per team. They all race to gain points by locking down the opposing jammer, dodging blockers and working to help their own team break free. "Think football on roller skates," Rose says, but clarifies that there is no ball. "Just a constant dance of offense and defense." Tickets provide entry into both games, where there will also be food, a beer garden and a raffle. "Come for the adrenaline, stay for the spectacle," Rose says. — Savannah Brown

Emerald City Roller Derby's double header game one begins 4 pm and game two begins 6 pm Saturday, April 25 at Bob Keefer Center, 250 South 32nd Street, Springfield. Doors 3 pm. Tickets are \$16.80 and are available at EmeraldCityRd.org.



Lectures/Classes

Alice Bucknell: Clipped Horizon, 4pm, Lawrence Hall, 1190 Franklin Blvd.

Past Present & Future of Fair Housing, 6-7:15pm, Museum of Natural & Cultural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave.

Nightlife

Trivia, 6:30-8:30pm today, Thurs., Apr. 30, Viking Brewing W., 520 Commercial St. ste. F.

Trivia, 7pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.

Bingo, 7pm today, Thurs., Apr. 30, Twisted Duck, 533 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd.

Karaoke, 8pm-midnight today, Thurs., Apr. 30, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd.

Outdoors/Recreation

Sharon Schuman Memorial Run/Walk 2026, 9am, Amazon Park Running Trails, 24th & Amazon Pkwy.

Gentle Chair Yoga, noon-1pm today, Tue., Thurs., Apr. 30, St. Thomas Episcopal Fellowship Hall, 1465 Coburg Rd. \$8

Forest Bath & River Walk, 4:30-6pm today, Wed., Thurs., Apr. 30, Maurie Jacobs Park. \$29.95

Social Dance

A Contra & Squares Crossover, 7-10pm, WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th Ave.

Latin Dance, 7-10pm today, Thurs., Apr. 30, Claim 52 Brewing, 232 Lincoln St. \$5

Theater

A Case For The Existence Of God, 7:30pm today, Fri., Sat., Thurs., Apr. 30, 2pm Sun., Oregon Contemporary Theatre, 194 W. Broadway.

Cabaret, 7:30pm today, Fri., Sat., 2:30pm Sun., Cottage Theatre, 700 Village Dr., Cottage Grove. \$20-32

April 24

FRIDAY

Benefits

The Grateful Guinea Project Fundraiser, 6:30-11pm, The Box, 661 E. 19th Ave. \$20

Comedy

Comedy In The Cattail Lounge, 7:30pm, Wetlands Brew Pub & Sports Bar, 922 Garfield St.

Dance

The UnderStory, 7-8:30pm, The Lavender Network, 1590 Willamette. \$20

Food/Drink

Cheers to 13 Years, 11am-10pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St.

Kids/Family

Family Storytime, 10:15am, Sheldon Branch Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd.

Preschool Storytime, 10:30am, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Trivia, 6pm, Sheldon Branch Eugene Public Library.

Something Rotten Jr., 7pm today, 2pm Sun., Wildish Community Theater, 630 Main St., Spfd. \$12-18

Lectures/Classes

Sea Otters, 6-8:30pm, Obsidian Lodge, 2250 E. 29th Ave.

Nightlife

Twisted Karaoke, 8pm-midnight, Twisted Duck, 533 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd.

Outdoors/Recreation

Goat Yoga, 3-4pm & 6-7pm, 3-4pm Sat., Sun., No Regrets Flower Farm & Animal Sanctuary, 26641 Bellfountain Rd., Monroe. \$30

Tree Walk, 4-5:30pm, Friends of Trees, 1238 Lincoln St.

Spiritual

Recovery Dharma Buddhist Recovery Mtg., 10-11am, Jesco Club, 340 Blair Blvd.

Teens

LGBTQ+ Youth Group, 4-6pm, Amazon Community Ctr., 2700 Hilyard St.

Theater

Radium Girls, 7:30pm today, Sat., 2pm Sun., Hope Theatre, Miller Theatre Complex, 1109 Old Campus Ln. \$8-10

April 25

SATURDAY

Art/Craft

Figure Art Session, 10am-1pm, Lane Community College, 4000 E. 30th Ave. \$8-60

Stained Glass Snail Workshop, noon-3pm, MECCA, 555 High St. \$75

Benefits

Lane County Master Gardener Plant Sale, 10am-2pm, Lane Events Ctr., 796 W. 13th Ave.

Comedy

Mirth Day, 4pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.

Hazed & Amused, 6:30-8:30pm, The Hybrid Gallery, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$13

Dance

The UnderStory, 2-3:30pm, The Lavender Network, 1590 Willamette. \$20

Drag

All Ages Drag Bingo, 5pm, The Sparrow & Serpent Pub, 211 Washington St. \$1-3

Film

Saturday Video Matinee, 2-3:30pm, The Ctr. for Sacred Sciences, 5440 Saratoga St.

Food/Drink

Cheers to 13 Years, 11am-10pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St.

Gatherings

Overeaters Anonymous, 9:30-10:30am, Unitarian Universalist Bldg, 1685 W. 13th Ave.

Kids/Family

Newts Nature Quest, 10am-noon, Tugman Park, 3666 Hilyard St. FREE-\$10

Baby & Toddler Storytime, 10:15am, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

Family Storytime, 10:30am & 11:15am, Downtown Eugene Public Library

Lectures/Classes

Paddling 101, 10am-3pm, Alton Baker Park Canoe Canal, 2550 Leo Harris Pkwy.

Practice Conversational English, 10am today, 4pm Sat., Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Guided Walking Tour, 1:30-3pm, Eugene Masonic Cemetery, 25th & University.

History of Comics Censorship, 3pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Literary Arts

The Short Story from Anton Chekhov to Ha Jin, 9:30am-noon, UO Baker Downtown Ctr., 975 High St.

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CALENDAR

Markets

Saturday Farmers Market, 9am-2pm, Farmers Market Pavilion, 85 E. 8th Ave.

Spring Plant Sale, 10am-2pm, Lane County Events Ctr., 796 W. 13th Ave.

Clothing Swap w/ Queer Eugene, noon-8pm, Whiteaker Tattoo Collective, 995 W. 7th Ave.

Outdoors/Recreation

City Nature Challenge, 10am-1pm, Wilkinson House, 1585 E. 13th Ave.

Yoga, 10am, The Hybrid, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$10-20

TransWild Forest Frolic, noon-5pm, Mount Pisgah Arboretum, 34901 Frank Parrish Rd.

Spectator Sports

Roller Derby Double Header, 4-8pm, Bob Keefer Ctr., 250 S. 32nd St., Spfd. \$16.80

Spiritual

Insight Meditation & Dharma Reflections & Discussion, 9:30-11am, Unitarian Universalist Bldg., 1685 W. 13th Ave.

Astrology & Human Design Charts, 1-5pm, Bree's Way Gift Shop, 1231 Alder St. \$33-111

Theater

The Mousetrap: Auditions, 10am-noon, Generations Theater Co., 1420 Kalmia St. Junction City.

April 26

SUNDAY

Art/Craft

Creating w/ Dried Flowers, 11am-2pm, Mountain Rose Herbs Mercantile, 152 W. 5th Ave.

Handmade Series: Clay Flowers, noon-2pm, Clay Space, 222 Polk Ave. \$80

Paint & Sip, noon, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. \$30

Benefits

Pet Adoption w/ Lucky Paws, 1pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave.

Benefit for Immigrant Latinos, 3-5:30pm, Claim 52 Brewing, 232 Lincoln St. FREE-\$20

Food/Drink

Cheers to 13 Years, 11am-9pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St.

Earth Day, 11:30am-10pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave.

Gatherings

Hope Abbey Open House, 1-4pm, Eugene Masonic Cemetery, 25th & University.

Holiday

May Day Celebration, noon-5pm, Park Blocks, 8th Ave. & Oak St.

Kids/Family

Earth Day, 11:30am, PLAY, 232 W. 5th Ave.

Neurodivergent Power, 3pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Family Bingo, 5:30pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette.

Lectures/Classes

Make Your Own Matcha Bowl, 4:30-6pm, Color Cocktail Factory, 1162 Lorella Ave. \$45

Literary Arts

Poetry in the Round, 12:30-2pm, Coburg Commons Bookstore, 91193 N. Willamette, Coburg.

Writing Time, 6:30-9pm, Wordcrafters Studio, 436 Charnelton St. ste. 100. \$5

Nightlife

Quality Trivia, 7-9pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd.

Karaoke, 8pm-midnight, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd.

Quality Trivia, 8pm, The Houndstooth Public House, 1795 W. 6th Ave.

Outdoors/Recreation

Trauma-Informed Yoga for Veterans, 9:30-10:30am, Sheldon Community Ctr., 2445 Willakenzie Rd.

Social Dance

Community Flow: A Circus Party, 5-10pm, WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th Ave. \$25

Balkan Folk Dancing, 7:15-9:30pm, The Vet's Club, 1626 Willamette. \$5

Spiritual

Bahá'u'lláh & the New Era, 10-11:30am, Baha'i Ctr., 1458 Alder St.

Nondual Teachings from the Great Spiritual Traditions, 11am-12:45pm, The Ctr. for Sacred Sciences, 5440 Saratoga St.

Sunday Morning Soul Connection, 10:45am-noon, EVCSL The Light House, 458 Blair Blvd.

April 27

MONDAY

Civics

PHB Food Security Task Group, 3-4pm, Online, visit LaneCountyOr.gov for link.

City Council Wk. Session, 5:30pm, City Hall, 500 E. 4th Ave. or visit Eugene-or.gov for link.

City Council Mtg., 7:30pm, City Hall, 500 E. 4th Ave. or visit Eugene-or.gov for link.

Film

Night Of The Living Dead (1968), 8pm, Axe & Fiddle, 657 E. Main St., Cottage Grove.

Gatherings

Chess, 4-6pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

Eugene Deadhead Trivia, 6pm, Whirled Pies, 199 W. 8th Ave.

Sit & Stitch, 6-8pm, Shelton McMurphey Johnson House, 303 Willamette.

Cascade Brewers Society, 7-9pm, Claim 52 Brewing, 232 Lincoln St. \$30

Emerald Valley Chorus Rehearsal, 7-9:30pm, Eugene Faith Ctr., 1410 W. 13th Ave.

Nightlife

Quality Trivia, 6-8pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St.

Bingo, 6:30pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.

Cribbage w/ Eugene Cribbage, 6:30-8:30pm, The Annex Eugene, 1236 Kincaid St. \$3

Trivia, 6:30pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

Outdoors/Recreation

Runners Strength & Mobility, 6:30am, Zenith Performance & Wellness, 160 S. Park St. FREE-\$175

Taiji & Mobility, 9-10am, Denfinity Dance Studio, 1325 Jefferson St. \$15-20

Beginner's Rock Climbing, 6-8pm, Crux Rock Climbing Gym, 401 W. 3rd Ave. \$17

Social Dance

W. Coast Swing Dancing, 7-10:30pm, The Vet's Club, 1626 Willamette. \$5-7

April 28

TUESDAY

Art/Craft

Open Hack Night, 6-9pm, Eugene Maker Space, 3890 W. 1st Ave.

Figure Art Session, 6:15-9pm today, Wed., New Zone Gallery, 110 E. 11th Ave., ste. C. \$8-60

Benefits

Gather & Give: A Night for New Neighbors, 5-8pm, The Garden on Friendly, 2760 Friendly St.

Civics

Board of Commissioners Mtg., 9am, Public Service Bldg., 500 E. 4th Ave. or visit LaneCountyOr.gov for link.

Equity Program Advisory Board Mtg., 6-7:30pm, Online, visit LaneCountyOr.gov for link.

Health

Live Lifestyle Medicine Free, 7-8:30pm, First Christian Church Spfd., 395 Centennial Blvd., Spfd.

Kids/Family

Baby Storytime, 9:45am & 10:30am, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Tweens: Make Shrink Art Charms, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Lectures/Classes

Science on Tap, 5pm, The Axe & Fiddle, 657 E. Main St., Cottage Grove.

Mindfulness Meditation & Psychology Talk, 6-7:30pm, Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave. Bldg. B.

Literary Arts

Writing Time, 9:30am-noon, Wordcrafters Studio, 436 Charnelton St. ste. 100. \$5

Nightlife

Bingo, 6:30pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

Trivia, 6:30-8:30pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St.

Trivia, 6:30-8pm, Tallman Brewing, 2055 Primrose St., Lebanon.

Bingo, 7-9pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette.

Trivia, 7-9pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave.

Outdoors/Recreation

Gentle Restorative Yoga, 10-11am, Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave. Bldg. B. \$15

Weekly Tune-Up, 10-10:30am, Online, visit Yazen.Space for link. \$11

Spiritual

Recovery Dharma Buddhist Recovery Mtg., 6-7pm, First Congregational Church, 1050 E. 23rd Ave.

April 29

WEDNESDAY

Benefits

Hazelwood Ensemble, 7pm, Grace Lutheran Church, 435 NW. 21st St., Corvallis. \$20-45

Comedy

Another Round: Open Mic, 7:30pm, The Pint Pot Pub, 195 E. 17th Ave.

APRIL 24

Comedian, father and sitcom star **Billy Gardell** thinks we're too hard on kids. Gardell, a veteran standup and star of *Mike & Molly*, *Young Sheldon* and *Bob Hearts Abishola*, comes to The Hult Center April 24, performing a brand-new hour of comedy. "I think it's lazy, low-hanging, mouth-breathing idiocy to think that these kids aren't up against way worse than anything we've come up against," Gardell says of the younger generations. In his material, he also talks about his own father and his weight loss experience post-bariatric surgery — or as he puts it, "the elephant that's no longer in the room." He also touches on married life in his 50s, what he calls "the sweet spot. It's just fun to be older and in love," Gardell says — fitting well with the good-natured blue-collar TV dads he often plays. "My material is always what I'm doing in my life or what I've learned," Gardell explains. "I've always found those are good wells to go to because it stays authentic. I'm not an observational comic. I'm not a crowd work comic. I'm a guy who tries to convey a common experience." Gardell's Hult show is part of his first theater tour after years in the business. "I'm a little old, and the travel hurts, but the minute they call my name, it's worth it. I still love being up there," Gardell says. — *Will Kennedy*

Billy Gardell: The Less is More Tour is 7 pm Friday, April 24, at the Hult Center's Soreng Theater. Tickets start at \$39 and are available at HultCenter.org. The performance is all ages.



BILLY GARDELL Photo by Cary Heilman

Food/Drink

An Evening of Regional Italian Cuisine, Lombardy, 6-8:30pm, Akira, 359 Mill St. \$95-120

Gatherings

Eugene Go Club, 5:30-9pm, The Wheel Apizza Pub, 390 Lincoln St.

Overeaters Anonymous, 6-7:30pm, Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 3925 Hilyard St.

Kids/Family

Toddler Storytime, 9:45am & 10:30am, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Ice Cream Social, 3-4:30pm, Churchill Estates Retirement Community, 1919 Bailey Hill Rd.

Lectures/Classes

Art & Politics in Tibetan Buddhism, 5:30pm, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, 1430 Johnson Ln.

Nightlife

Trivia, 6-8pm, Hey Neighbor! Pizza, 605 W. 19th Ave.

Trivia, 6-8pm, The Garden on Friendly, 2760 Friendly St.

Cribbage, 6:30-8:30pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette. \$5

Game Night, 6:30-10pm, The Axe & Fiddle, 657 E. Main St., Cottage Grove.

Bingo, 7-9pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave.

Get in the Game Show, 7-9pm, Centennial Steak House & Sports Bar, 1300 Mohawk Blvd., Spfd.

Trivia, 7pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette.

Outdoors/Recreation

55-plus Mindful Fitness, 10-11am, Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St. \$20-60

Co-Ed Dodgeball Pick-Up, 6-8pm, Bob Keefer Ctr., 250 S. 32nd St., Spfd. \$7

Social Dance

Argentine Tango Dancing, 7-10pm, Veterans' Memorial Bldg., 1626 Willamette. \$7-10

Teens

Make Monster Mittens, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

April 30 THURSDAY

Art/Craft

Pegasus Designer Findings Trunk Show, 11am-6pm, \$5

Harlequin Beads & Jewelry, 2833 Willamette.

Film

Horrible Bingo: Death Bed (1977), 7-9pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$10

Kids/Family

Something Rotten Jr., 7pm, Willamette High School-Powers Auditorium, 1801 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE-\$8

Lectures/Classes

A Decade of Bldg. Oregon's Future, 5-7:30pm, The Shedd, 285 E. Broadway.

Duck Talks, 6:30pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette.

Literary Arts

Lace & Literature, 6:30-8:30pm, Shelton McMurrey Johnson House, 303 Willamette. FREE-\$5

Nightlife

Cat Bingo, 5:30-7pm, Eugene Spfd. Cat Lounge, 537 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. \$25

ShelterCare Trivia, 6:30pm, Farmers Market Pavilion, 85 E. 8th Ave.

Trivia, 7pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.

Music Listings

THURSDAY 4/23

ART HOUSE Sean Pratt w/ Megan Siebe & Sequoia (folk) — 7:30pm. \$20

BEERGARDEN Nicole Hummel & Gabe Schiffer — 7pm.

BLAIRALLY The Hasbens (rock) — 9pm. \$8

COWFISH DANCE CLUB Z Night — 9pm.

HULT CTR. Eugene Symphony: Majestic Horizons — 7:30pm. \$12.50-85.70

LUCKEY'S CLUB Funk Night — 9pm.

OAKSHIRE PUBLIC HOUSE Live Music — 6pm.

PLAY Records w/ Ben Love — 6pm.

SPFD. EAGLES LODGE NO. 3597 Thursday Night Jam — 7pm.

TALLMAN BREWING Open Mic: Acoustic Music — 5:30pm.

THE AXE AND FIDDLE Open Mic w/ Bradley Shepherd — 7pm.

THE JAZZ STATION Heart Matter — 7:30pm. \$25

THE SHEDD Vocal Arts Festival 2026 — 6pm. \$15-32

THE SPARROW & SERPENT PUB Black Magdalene & ESSES & Carrion Empire (darkwave) — 8pm. \$15

TSUNAMI BOOKS David Jacobs: Strain & Bob Beach (folk) — 7:30pm. \$20

UNITY OF THE VALLEY Gness (Scottish folk) — 7:30pm. \$26.50-28

FRIDAY 4/24

ART HOUSE Mirah & Emily Kokal (indie) — 8pm. \$20-25

AXE & FIDDLE JuJu Eyeball (The Beatles cover band) — 8pm. \$17.85

BEERGARDEN Ramblin' Robert & The McKenzie Drifters (bluegrass) — 7:30pm.

BLAIRALLY Church of 80s — 9pm. \$4

BUGSY'S BAR & GRILL East-Side AllStars — 8pm.

COWFISH DANCE CLUB Freek! Dance Party — 9pm.

DROP BEAR BREWERY Bongo-latte (Latin jazz) — 7pm.

EUGENE SCIENCE CTR. Friday Night Laser Shows: K-Pop Demon Hunters, Taylor Swift, Prince — 5pm. -8

GRATITUDE BREWING Mild Kingdom (yacht rock) — 7:30pm.

MAC'S RESTAURANT & NIGHT-CLUB The Hank Shreve Band (blues) — 8pm. \$10

MAX'S Lonesome Randal ('60s covers) — 7pm.

OAKSHIRE PUBLIC HOUSE Live Music on the Patio — 6pm.

OREGON WINE LAB Colleen Kitchen (indie) — 6pm.

PLAY Calico Crows (Americana) — 7pm.

PUBLICHOUSE McKayla Marie (singer-songwriter) — 7pm.

QUACKENBUSH BUILDING Song & Poetry Open Mic — 6:30pm.

THE GARDEN ON FRIENDLY Dubious Rubes (Americana) — 6:30pm.

THE JAZZ STATION David Morgenroth & Friends — 7:30pm. \$25

THE SHEDD Vocal Arts Festival 2026 — 7:30pm. \$15-32

VIKING BREWING W. Swing Jam w/ Track Town Swing — 6:30pm.

WOW HALL Crash the Cottage (lgbtq+) — 8pm. \$15-20

SATURDAY 4/25

BEERGARDEN Left on Tenth (rock) — 7:45pm.

BEERGARDEN Belltower (bluegrass) — 6pm.

BLAIRALLY Reb & The Good News & Alder Street (rock) — 9pm. \$12

CLAIM 52 BREWING Garcia Birthday Band (Grateful Dead tribute) — 4pm. \$24-60

DROP BEAR BREWERY Lynda Duffy Band (bluegrass) — 7pm.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH EUGENE Candlelight — 5:30pm & 7:45pm. \$27

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH The Many (gospel) — 2pm.

GRATITUDE BREWING Moon Mountain String Band (bluegrass) — 7:30pm.

HAPPY HOURS Legacy (classic rock) — 8pm.

LOCAL LOSERS LOUNGE Music Bingo — 6pm.

MAC'S RESTAURANT AND NIGHT CLUB The Strange Tones (blues) — 8pm. \$15

OAKSHIRE PUBLIC HOUSE Live Music — 6pm.

OREGON WINE LAB Skip Jones & Spirit of New Orleans — 6pm.

PLAY Reggae Riddim — 8pm.

THE GARDEN ON FRIENDLY Burt & Slone (bluegrass) — 6:30pm.

THE HOUNDSTOOTH PUBLIC HOUSE Josh Mottley (new age) — 7:30pm.

THE JAZZ STATION Bertucci/Alves Quintet — 7:30pm. \$25

THE SHEDD Vocal Arts Festival 2026 — 7:30pm. \$15-32

TSUNAMI BOOKS Terry Robb & Adam Scramstad (blues) — 7:30pm. \$27

VIKING BREWING W. Epiphonic — 6pm.

WOW HALL Sara B3 & 45 RPM (soul) — 7pm. \$15-20

SUNDAY 4/26

COWFISH DANCE CLUB Goth Night — 9pm.

EVEN STEVEN'S The EastSide Sunday Night Jam — 5pm.

GRATITUDE BREWING Open Mic — 4pm.

JOHN HENRY'S Bad Luck Blackouts & GFL & No Place Or Time (punk) — 9pm. \$10

THE GARDEN ON FRIENDLY Traditional Irish Music Session — 4pm.

THE PUBLIC HOUSE Open Mic w/ Amblin — 5:30pm.

MONDAY 4/27

ART HOUSE elias wolf & HomoPhonic (lgbtq) — 7:30pm. \$18-20

BEERGARDEN Bluegrass Jam & Game Night — 6:30pm.

COWFISH DANCE CLUB Waffle House — 8pm.

HAPPY HOURS Open Mic Mondays — 8pm.

HOUNDSTOOTH PUBLIC HOUSE Open Mic — 5:30pm.

APRIL 24 & 25

Eugene's live music schedule is packed this weekend. There's a Pacific Northwest indie singer-songwriting legend celebrating her first new album in seven years, a fresh local indie rock band releasing their second record and a longtime local favorite performing their second-to-last farewell (for now) concert. At 8 pm Friday, April 24, singer-songwriter **Mirah** performs at Art House (492 East 13th Avenue). Originally from Olympia, Washington, and now based in Brooklyn, Mirah comes to town behind *Dedication*, released in February, continuing her atmospheric and finely-orchestrated style of wistful indie pop. Joining her on the evening's bill is **Emily Kokal** performing a solo set. She lives in Eugene and is a member of the Los Angeles band Warpaint (tickets are \$20). At 9 pm, Eugene's **Bike Fight** plays John Henry's (881 Willamette) supporting their new album, *Bright Future*. Bike Fight guitarist Brian Huntamer calls his band's sound, "90s baby indie rock," fuzzy and tuneful with a slacker edge (tickets are \$10). Then, 8 pm Saturday, April 25, at WOW Hall, **Sara B 3 & 45 rpm Soul Revue** performs the first of two shows before going on hiatus after 17 years (tickets are \$20). Sara B 3 plays classic soul, funk and R&B covers with a full band and horn section. Bandleader Sara Bilddt says "I have kept this project flourishing through many iterations, alongside my other musical and artistic endeavors," including her new solo project, *Deer Woman*. "The time has come to take a step back and reflect on all of the good times the band has had." Sara B 3 will play one last time, June 27, at Blairally (245 Blair Boulevard), before their hiatus officially begins. — *Will Kennedy*



BIKE FIGHT Photo by Shida Patton

PUBLICHOUSE Belltower (bluegrass) — 6:30pm.

WILDISH COMMUNITY THEATER Chamber Music Amici Presents: Memoir — 7:30pm.

WOW HALL Creed Fisher (country) — 7pm. \$35-40

TUESDAY 4/28

AXE & FIDDLE Long A (rock) — 8pm.

COWFISH DANCE CLUB Techno Night — 9pm.

GRATITUDE BREWING Gerry Rempel Trio — 6pm.

HAPPY HOURS Rich Fisher (singer-songwriter) — 6:30pm.

HOUSE CONCERT Ken Waldman (old-time) — 7:30pm.

OREGON WINE LAB One Mic Open Mic — 5pm.

WANDERING GOAT COFFEE CO. Clay Birds & Mau & Othiel & Murder Movies (punk) — 7pm. \$10

WEDNESDAY 4/29

COWFISH DANCE CLUB Millennial Night — 9pm.

GRATITUDE BREWING Open Bluegrass Jam Session — 6pm.

LOCAL LOSERS LOUNGE Open Jam — 6pm.

MULLIGAN'S PUB Open Mic — 8:30pm.

THE HYBRID Open Mic — 7:30pm. \$5

THE SHEDD Pat Metheny Side-Eye III+ (jazz) — 7:30pm. \$65.70-89

TWISTED DUCK PUB Wednesday Night Jam — 6pm.

WOW HALL Amelia Day (folk) — 7pm. \$15-20

THURSDAY 4/30

AXE & FIDDLE Tappin' Talent Spotlight — 6pm.

BEERGARDEN Rootdown — 7pm.

COWFISH DANCE CLUB Z Night — 9pm.

LUCKEY'S CLUB Funk Night — 9pm.

OAKSHIRE PUBLIC HOUSE Live Music on the Patio — 6pm.

SPFD. EAGLES LODGE NO. 3597 Thursday Night Jam — 7pm.

THE JAZZ STATION Wood & Bucheit & Wallmark & Veach — 7:30pm. \$25

WHIRLED PIES FloState (jam band) — 7pm.

Odd Couple

A Case for the Existence of God is a tale of an unlikely friendship in a life full of unexpected complications

BY DOROTHY VELASCO

Samuel D. Hunter is rapidly gaining a reputation as one of our leading contemporary American playwrights. You may not know his name yet, but he is well-revered in New York. Surprisingly, he grew up in Idaho, which is hardly a sure road to Broadway. No matter. He has found his way to success, scooping up major awards along the way.

Yes, he earned the MacArthur “Genius Award” fellowship. Yes, he had a huge break with his play and screenplay, *The Whale* (2022), for which Brendan Fraser received the Oscar for best actor in a leading role. Yes, *A Case for the Existence of God* was

named Best Play of 2022 by the New York Drama Critics Circle.

Now playing at Oregon Contemporary Theatre in a tantalizing production sensitively directed by Craig Willis, this one-act drama is not to be missed.

In spite of its title, the play is not religious. What it’s showing us is how two men with very different backgrounds can learn the difficult task of empathizing with each other.

The action takes place in a modest mortgage broker’s office in Twin Falls, Idaho. The mortgage broker, Keith, is gay, Black and in the process of adopting a little girl. He is visited at his office one day by Ryan, who works at a yogurt plant. Ryan also has custody, at least for the time being, of his own little daughter. The two toddlers become friends at their pre-school.

Ryan shows up at Keith’s office one day with the naive idea that Keith can arrange a loan that would allow him to purchase some acreage once owned by his pioneering family decades ago. Unlike Keith, his upbringing hasn’t provided opportunities for advancement, and he believes owning the homestead would allow him to thrive.



CHAUNCEY MAUNEY AS RYAN AND JONATHAN THOMPSON AS KEITH. Photo by Bob Williams Photography

He would love to give his daughter a heritage to be proud of.

Keith and Ryan, who in the past would never have expected to develop a friendship, are currently undergoing the same difficulties as single males, each raising a tiny child. Gradually they begin to trust and like each other. But that’s only part of the journey. Life is full of unexpected complications, especially in a heartfelt play.

I can’t imagine two better actors than Chauncey Mauney as Ryan and Jonathan Thompson as Keith. Both reveal much about themselves simply by how they dress, then how they talk and how they remember being in the same high school. Back then, Ryan was a popular jock, while Keith was quiet and relatively affluent. When he went to college, he studied early

music. Now, as a small-time mortgage broker, he has learned what the real world expects of him.

The script offers a strikingly unusual change of direction at the end. Consider it a puzzle that might take a little time to decipher. And beware, for some in the audience, the play is a tearjerker, so it’s best to take a hanky just in case.

The collaborative design team includes Jeffrey Cook (scenic design), Chad Kushuba (sound design), Laura Leader (properties design), L’Via Rodriguez (lighting design) and Lilli Turner (costume design). The production stage manager is Riley Allen.

A Case for the Existence of God is playing at Oregon Contemporary Theatre (OCT) through May 3, including Sunday matinees at 2 pm on April 26 and May 3. Call 541-465-1506, or visit OCTheatre.org for tickets and information.



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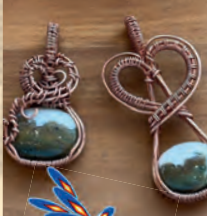
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The Reveal

My husband and I have been married for 11 years, and four years ago he started seeing sex workers. He didn't tell me for two years (and we were condom-less) and although I suspected something was up, I didn't pry. When I finally convinced him to tell me WTF was going on, we decided to stay together and he now consistently goes to sex workers. (He goes daily, if he can.) We have sex about three times a week, which is about right for me, and I genuinely don't want to see anyone else. (If he's not around, sex toys are all I need.)

At first, I asked for him to let me know when it was happening so I could regain trust that he would tell me things, but it felt like pulling teeth to me and like an interrogation for him. So, I dropped it, and we only talk about his "outings" if he brings one up. Recently, I spotted a condom in the car and asked if he had sex there. He avoided the question twice before finally saying yes. I think the closeness to "home"/"ours" and the fact that he avoided telling me made me feel uncomfortable with the whole business all over again. I can't tell if it's better for me just to stop asking questions or to ask myself if this is really working. I love being with him for so many reasons, but when something like this happens, it really hurts. What should I do?

— Discomfort With Disclosure

How on earth can your husband afford to see a sex worker every day? I'm not casting aspersions on women doing survival sex work, but if your husband spent two years getting \$5 blowjobs from desperate drug addicts, DWD, you'd most likely

have contracted a sexually transmitted infection from him during that time. So, I'm guessing your husband was seeing the kind of pros who can insist on condoms — women who typically aren't desperate and don't come cheap. The financial drain alone is a reason to end this marriage. (If your husband isn't made of money and you merged your finances when you married, DWD, you might wanna take a look at your bank statements, your retirement savings and check your credit report.)

On to your question: What should you do?

Accept that your husband isn't going to change, DWD, and decide if you're willing to put up with his shit — shit that has only gotten shittier over time — for the rest of your life. He lied to your face for two years, cheated on you with countless women and put you at physical risk. Now that everything is out in the "open," he's refused to honor his agreement to be transparent and dodges direct questions. You can accept him as he is — and I'm not saying you should, DWD, I'm only saying you can — or you can leave him. What you shouldn't do is deceive yourself about who your husband is. Screaming, yelling and couples counseling aren't going to change him. He will never be completely honest with you, he can't be trusted to honor the boundaries you set together, and he's most likely already fucked other women in your bed as well as your car. If you can live with that, you could stay. If you can't, you should go.

Got problems? Yes, you do! Email your question for the column to mailbox@savage.love! Or record your question for the Savage Lovecast at savage.love/askdan! Podcasts, columns and more at Savage.Love.



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Oak Street, Suite 800, Eugene, OR 97401, within 4 months from the date of publication of this notice or such claims may be barred. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN to all persons whose rights may be affected by the above-entitled proceedings that additional information may be obtained from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative or the attorneys for the Personal Representative. Dated this 23rd day of April, 2026.

PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 819
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 5/8/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by B&R HoldCo, LLC-SPRINGFIELD 3000 MAIN ST SPRINGFIELD, OR 2024 TOYT PRI 4D VIN=JTDACACU2R3024330 Amount due on lien \$5949.60 Reputed owner(s) > KATHLEEN ELLEN TRYHORN

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Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 4/28/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by COPART OF WASHINGTON INC-EUGENE 29815 ENID RD EAST EUGENE, OR 2014 TOYT VEN LL VIN = 4T3BA3BB1EU063911 Amount due on lien \$1550.00 Reputed owner(s) > MCKENZIE LEE ROANE INROADS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 5/5/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by COPART OF WASHINGTON INC-EUGENE 29815 ENID RD EAST EUGENE, OR 2013 AUDI S5 CP VIN = WAUUGAFR2DA026111 Amount due on lien \$1570.00 Reputed owner(s) > THISCAR KATHLEEN A TRUVER



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Astrology

WEEK OF APRIL 23
BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The visible lightning bolt we see is actually the return stroke. It’s electricity racing back up from the ground to the cloud after an invisible leader stroke has created a path. So the spectacular display is actually the Earth talking back to the sky. I’d love to see you adopt this phenomenon as your power symbol, Aries. In every way you can imagine, be like the earth conversing with the sky. When a hopeful sign crackles overhead, send out a bold message that you’re ready to act on it. If your ideals are vague and wispy, flying high above you, take a brave, practical step to anchor them in reality. Proclaim your bright intentions to the clouds and the stars.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You’re finished with energy-draining indulgences. No more seductive perils or cute ailments, either. Once you wriggle free from the tangles that have been hobbling your style, I suspect you will also renounce anything that resembles joyless restraint, naive certainties, pointless cravings, numbing comforts or misplaced bravery. May it be so! Abracadabra! The emancipations that materialize after these escapes will likely stoke your holy appetite to shine more fiercely than it has in ages.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In music theory, the tritone is an interval exactly halfway between octaves. In old church music, it was considered diabolical because of its unstable, unresolved quality. But this "devil interval" is now essential to blues, jazz and rock. The precariousness that once made it seem outrageous became the source of its potency. What was taboo became foundational. I believe you’re entering into a metaphorical tritone phase, Gemini. Lots of interesting and valuable stuff may be a bit wobbly, irregular, hectic or ruffled.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A treasure you have long yearned for has morphed since the day you first set out to claim it. Either it has genuinely altered its shape and flavor or it has remained exactly what it always was while you have changed. In either case, the relationship between you and this prize is no longer the same. Its meaning and value have shifted. The strategies you’ve been using to pursue it aren’t entirely relevant. So I suggest you pause and reconsider. Decide whether you need to formulate a revised approach or identify a different version of the treasure altogether.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): My radical predictions: You will soon discern truths that have been hidden and unravel mysteries that have resisted your understanding. A limiting belief that has dulled your mind will fade away, and a so-called ally who has confused your sense of self will drift out of your orbit. And that’s just part of the renewal ahead. I foresee that you will emerge from a weird emotional haze, regaining access to feelings you’ve needed to highlight. And with that awakening, you will be blessed with beautiful realizations that until now have lingered just beyond definition.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In theater, "blocking" refers to the carefully choreographed movement of actors on stage. Every step is intentional, designed to create meaning and flow. But if an actor forgets the blocking and moves spontaneously in response to what’s happening, sometimes the scene becomes more alive. Let’s apply this idea to your life, Virgo. It may be that you have been following the blocking carefully. You know your role well. But now you’ve been authorized to forget the blocking. You can respond to what’s really happening instead of what’s scripted. I invite you to speak from your heart rather than parroting what’s expected of you. Yes, you might mess up the scene. But on the other hand, you might make it extra real and vibrant.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In the future I envision for us all, the prizes that truly matter won’t be the wealth we’ve gathered or the impressive names on our contact list. They won’t be the clever deals we’ve made or the attractiveness of those who walk beside us. What will count most is our ability to transform the messy, selfish, frightened parts of ourselves into strengths. That’s hard to do! Each of us carries a share of that leaden dross, of course, but some of us are more tirelessly ingenious in our efforts to transmute it into gold. And the coming weeks will be prime time for you, Libra, to make dynamic progress in harnessing this magic.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Is it possible there’s something you really need but you don’t know what it is? Sometimes the soul sends up subtle hints long before it sends clear demands: a vague restlessness, a mysterious sadness, or a boredom that doesn’t match your circumstances. These are often clues that an unnamed or unacknowledged need is summoning your attention. My advice to you: *Pay attention!* Ask your deep, sweet, sensitive self to provide unambiguous clues. To expedite the process, say the following sentence out loud, filling in the blank at the end: “I suspect I might be starving for _____.”

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You have arrived at the Glorious Grunting Season, my dear Sagittarius. I hope you’re poised to sweat freely and trust the intelligence of strenuous physical effort. Your wise body, more than your fine mind, can best align you with cosmic rhythms. Whenever you throw yourself into work or play that makes you grunt — hauling, scrubbing, digging, lifting, dancing, running, making love — you will harmonize with the deeper pulse of life. I predict that you will invigorate your instinctual vitality as you clear emotional sediment and ground your energy in the earth’s rich rhythms. You will metabolize frustration into focus, inertia into momentum and abstraction into embodiment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): What might motivate you to become an extraordinary lover? I’m not suggesting that your romantic and erotic talents are lacking, only that there is delightful room to grow. And the coming weeks will be prime time for you to have fun with this noble experiment. I suggest you follow the clues that life and intuition will drop in your path. Keep this in mind, too: What makes a person a superb lover has a little to do with sheer technique, but is mostly due to emotional intelligence, imaginative responsiveness and tender ingenuity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): This horoscope isn’t composed by me. It’s coming from you. I’m channeling it straight out of your own deep mind. Why now? Because your conscious ego has been so swept up in the constant swirl of tasks and distractions that it has been tuning out crucial communications from your still, small voice. And now that precious Spirit Whisperer has conscripted me as its messenger. Here’s what it wants to say: “Hey, you! Remember me? Your inner guide? Also known as your higher self and the voice of your soul? You urgently need to turn your attention back in my direction. I have a backlog of messages for you, starting with how we can and should intensify our devotion to creative self-care.”

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In 1967, Piscean biologist Lynn Margulis proposed a revolutionary idea about life’s evolution: that many of its great leaps occurred through symbiosis. She theorized that distinct organisms have sometimes merged their identities to form entirely new beings. One example is the mitochondrion, the powerhouse within our cells. It began its existence as a free-living bacterium that later entered into partnership with the ancestral cell. Margulis’ formerly controversial idea is now mainstream science. (She was called “science’s unruly earth mother.”) With this as our guide, Pisces, let’s contemplate what separate elements of your life might merge into unprecedented blends. I invite you to consider bold experiments in merging and mixing. Hybrids might be more beautiful and valuable than the sum of their parts.

Homework: What secret have you hidden so well you’ve almost forgotten it yourself?
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